

SUMMARY:

In accordance with a service agreement with the County, Solano Garbage Company provides mandatory garbage collection, disposal and recycling services for approximately 1,500 homeowners and customers in the unincorporated areas surrounding the cities of Fairfield and Suisun. Solano County Code section 23-72 allows the provider of mandatory garbage services to assign accounts that have gone unpaid for more than 60 days to the County for collection. A list of these accounts can be provided to the County once per year during the month of May.

A noticed public hearing is required under California Government Code section 25831. The Board shall hold a public hearing where they shall hear the report of delinquent fees and any objections or protests to the report. The Board may make revisions or corrections to the report as it deems just, after which, by resolution, the report shall be confirmed. Adoption of the resolution confirming delinquent garbage accounts at the noticed public hearing will enable the County to place liens on properties with delinquent garbage accounts and collect the unpaid amount, plus the \$50 administrative charge per account, on the property tax bills.

The noticed public hearing date of July 25, 2017 will allow the confirmed report of delinquent accounts to be submitted to the Auditor-Controller's Office by the August 7, 2017 deadline in order to impose the delinquent fees and administrative charges as special assessments on the FY2017/18 property tax roll.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The collection of the delinquent fees will be remitted to Solano Garbage Company, while the \$50 administration charge per account will be transferred to the Real Estate Services Division (Budget Unit 1642) to cover the costs of processing the delinquent fees including the release of liens. These revenues have been included in the FY2017/18 Recommended Budget.

DISCUSSION:

Solano Garbage Company sends delinquency notices to property owners for bills that have not been paid within 30 days of the billing date at which time those accounts become delinquent. Solano County Code section 23-72 was amended on October 6, 2009 to require that these notices be sent within 15 days after the date of the delinquency. Solano Garbage Company submits to the County, on an annual basis, a current report of accounts that have gone unpaid for more than 60 days as of May 1st for assignment to the County. In early June, Solano Garbage Company sends the affected property owners a final delinquency notice via certified mail stating that they can appear before the Board of Supervisors at a noticed public hearing on July 25, 2017 to object to the delinquent charges.

A noticed public hearing to confirm delinquent garbage service accounts is mandatory pursuant to the contractual requirements of the service agreement with Solano Garbage Company, California Government Code section 25831 and section 23-72 of the Solano County Code. The Board of Supervisors must hear any objections or protests to the report of delinquent accounts from liable landowners, make any revisions or corrections as deemed appropriate and confirm the report of delinquent accounts by resolution.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board could choose to set another noticed public hearing date to confirm delinquent accounts for the unincorporated areas of Fairfield and Suisun. This alternative is not recommended since requests to impose special assessments for FY2017/18 must be received by the Auditor-Controller's Office by August 7, 2017. The hearing date of July 25, 2017 will guarantee the delivery of the confirmed report of delinquent accounts by the deadline.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

County Counsel has previously reviewed the lien process for legal sufficiency. The Auditor-Controller's Office has notified General Services of the deadline to include special assessments for the FY2017/18 real property tax roll being prepared.

CAO RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION